



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Situational Awareness
- Crime Prevention
Tip of the Month
- Message from the
Provost Marshal
- SNAP Safety Hot-
line

March 2005

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 13

MARCH 2005

Situational Awareness

What if you could predict most violent encounters seconds before they occurred? This would be a great gift to have, but we are not blessed with this ability. Without this ability does not mean that we have to be victims. We just have to think about being one step ahead of any events that could occur. Situational awareness allows us to be better prepared for the unexpected. The purpose behind learning situational awareness techniques can be summed up as, "Avoid being surprised." If we are surprised our ability to have a successful response is greatly hindered. Surprise adversely affects a successful response. Situational awareness increases our response time by letting us begin sooner. When we can increase our response time by starting to respond earlier, we gain control over a portion of the event and our actions. Understanding situation awareness, the different types of environments and pre-incident indicators can allow you to create contingency plans, which increases your level of safety.

Remember your personal safety does not just center on violent encounters, it also encompasses daily activities. One daily activity that we all take part in is driving. Paying attention to the road is only part of situational awareness. You also have to pay attention to the other vehicles around you while you are on the road. This situation awareness takes on a different attitude. This attitude is proactive in nature and intended to identify potential dangers in advance. Ultimately we want to avoid distractions, which can come in a variety of forms. Anything that takes your focus off the situation is a distraction: a cell phone call, changing the channel on your stereo, changing a CD and/or daydreaming, etc.

An important aspect to understand is that the environment controls the level of awareness. In other words, there are areas where your alertness must be high and there are situations where it can be low. Identifying these in advance will allow you to be in the appropriate level of awareness. For example: Your home, place of work or other familiar places may provide a level of security which permits less alertness. On the other hand, you and/or your commander has identified places that may be considered off limits or high risk. Indicators of when a situation calls for you to be on a high level of awareness is when you begin to ask yourself some of the following questions: "Why is it you are suspicious of the person/event? Why are you apprehensive and looking over your shoulder? Why is it you are afraid?" The best thing to do when determining your level of



Physical Security
Officer

*“Remember
to report
the 4Ws:
Who, What,
When and
Where.”*

Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

Vehicle Larcenies

- Never leave a car door unlocked or a window or sun-roof open—even when leaving your vehicle unattended for a few moments
- Put your radio antenna down to avoid it being vandalized.
- Never leave any belongings in your car. A thief won't know that a bag or coat doesn't contain something valuable and might break a window to get at it. If you can't take it with you, then lock it in the trunk.
- Engrave your car stereo with an identifiable number and if it is removable, take it with you. Write down the serial number or engraved number and keep it in a safe place.
- Don't leave credit cards or check books in the glove compartment. One in five stolen credit cards and check books are taken from cars.
- Remove the ignition key and engage the steering lock—even when parking in your driveway or garage—and don't forget to lock the garage door.
- When you don't have a garage, always try to park in a well lit area.

For other Crime Prevention Tips, call the Chievres MP's at 068-27-5301 or your SNAP coordinator at 68-27-6143.

Situational Awareness

awareness is to trust your instincts.

Situational awareness starts with focused attention. Take the time to actually look at things and not just glance over them. Take the time to actually know your surroundings. This will help you to be able to pick up any subtle differences. Subtle differences can be an object or person that is out of place. Please do not hesitate in reporting any suspicious person, activity, or objects. Trust your

instincts.

Here are a few tips to remember when you are reporting any suspicious activity or person.

- Briefly describe the event—what happened, when, where, and who was involved.
- Describe the suspicious person by giving the sex, race, hair color, clothing, any distinctive characteristics such as a beard, mustache, tattoos, scars, and/or ac-

cent, and approximate age, height, weight.

- When describing a vehicle, be able to give the officer the color, make, model, year, license plate and special features such as any stickers, dents, decals, or any extra features that make the car stand out.

Remember to report the 4Ws: Who, What, When, and Where.



Things to Look For:

- Any item or person that is unusual or out of place
- Persons appearing to hide their activity
- A stranger taking pictures
- Pieces of trash or markings found in yards or lawns
- A stranger looking into windows or cars
- A stranger asking detailed questions
- Persons appearing to hide their activity
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child
- Vehicles moving slowly with no lights
- Vandalism, to include graffiti, broken windows, doors
- Numerous phone calls with no one on the line
- Abandoned cars
- Unusual noises
- Someone appearing to be in distress or danger

If you see any of the above, then please do not hesitate in calling the Chievres MPs at 068-27-5301, the SHAPE Federal Police at 065-44-3334, and/or the SNAP Hotline at 068-27-6300. You can even send an email to SNAP@benelux.army.mil.



"SNAP helps to promote safe and secure environments, teaches others to be aware, and to encourages neighbors to get to know their neighbors."



Message from the Provost Marshal

SMASH & GRABS

Smash & Grabs are a common practice here in Belgium and the Netherlands, especially now that the weather is getting warmer. When stopped inside your vehicle at a traffic light or any other intersection, look around and be aware of your surroundings. Look for people approaching your vehicle on foot. Make sure that your purse/briefcase or any high value items are not lying

on the seats where they can be easily taken by anyone reaching inside your vehicle through an open window. During last year's spring and summer months this practice victimized several members of our community and so far during the month of March we have received additional reports indicating that this will be a common occurrence again this year. The "MO" is a person who walks up to your car while you are stopped at an intersection. They reach through and the

open car window OR they will smash one of your windows and grab your goods that are sitting on the seat. CAUTION: Do not attempt to pursue or detain this thief as the weapon he used to smash your window, he may use on you. Your property can be replaced, but you cannot. Again, be aware of your surroundings and always practice good crime prevention and force protection techniques.





80th Area Support Group

Interested in Volunteering ???

Contact your SNAP Office:

80th ASG PMO-SNAP

Unit 21419 Bldg. 20134

APO, AE 09708

Office Location: Hotel Maisieres Web Office

Office Phone: 361-6143

Fax: 366-7211

Alternate Fax: 068-27-5969

SNAP@benelux.army.mil

Making Neighborhoods Safer is a SNAP!

The Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is here to serve the 80th ASG SHAPE/CHIEVRES Community. And to better serve our soldiers and their families, we have designed a Newsletter that will be available monthly and will provide helpful safety tips, an informative message from the Physical Security Division of the Office of the Provost Marshal, along with a Special Message from the Provost Marshal.



SNAP Introduces Safety Automated Hotline 068-27-6300

Are you interested in helping your community to stay safe? Become the Provost Marshal Offices eyes and ears by reporting suspicious activity to the SNAP Safety Hotline. This hotline is a new initiative by SNAP that allows you to remain anonymous to our automated system.

A Safe Neighborhood Starts with Safe Soldiers, Safe Adults and Safe Kids! Help SNAP in our quest to combat

crime and terrorism in our communities. This hotline is only for non-emergency issues. If you have an emergency please contact the Chievres MP Emergency Line at 068-27-5114.



Making Neighborhoods Safer is a SNAP!

